

Rhodes Cabin
Lehman Caves National Monument
White Pine County
Nevada

HABS No. NEV-17-1

HABS
NEV
17-
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NEV-17-1
Page 1

RHODES CABIN

Lehman Caves National Monument
White Pine County, Nevada

LOCATION: Eastward from the cave entrance
OWNER: National Park Service
OCCUPANT: None
USE: Formerly Cabin Shelter for Cave Visitors

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rhodes Cabin is the only remaining cabin of several built near the Lehman Cave entrance area. This type of simple log shelter was built by the pioneer homesteaders throughout this section of the West, but they are rapidly disappearing and few remain today.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The caves were discovered in 1885 by Ab (Absalom) Lehman, a pioneer homesteader of the area; a date, "1898", on the cave walls near the original entrance is the earliest evidence of exploration.

Some consider that Rhodes Cabin and other similar cabins were built by Lehman in the last century, but others believe that the cabins were built by C. T. Rhodes in 1928 to serve as shelters for visitors to the caves.

In 1932 the National Monument was established under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture; in 1933 the area was transferred to the National Park Service. The approach road, parking area and the Visitors Center were constructed in 1962.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Rhodes Cabin is a one-story, one-room building built of log construction. The outside dimensions are approximately 11'6" x 20'0".

EXTERIOR

The site on the gravelly slope was levelled, and the base logs were placed directly on the ground. The logs, of white fir and Englemann spruce, are quite variable in size and have considerable taper. At the corners, they are notched and project eight to twelve inches. Joints between the logs were originally chinked with cement mortar, but little remains in place. Logs and dimensioned lumber were never painted or treated. The logs on the ground are somewhat decayed, but other material is quite sound. Window and door bucks are warped excessively in several openings; they are roughly shaped of two inch pine lumber. The sash, without glass, is still in place in one of the windows, but others are missing. One plank door, built of one inch material, is available in the storage yard. Apparently a wood latch was lifted with a chain through a hole in the door.

The low-pitched ridge roof was constructed with two layers of wood planks over which there is a layer of earth fill. There is evidence that the two-inch planks were salvaged from the Osceola Irrigation flume, which was constructed in the late 1880's and later abandoned.

INTERIOR

The floor is of tamped earth, and the inside walls are the rough, unfinished logs. On the side walls, there are wood timbers supporting a seven inch square beam upon which the log ridge-pole and purlins rest. The rough planking is exposed on the ceiling. Probably little used in winter months, no heating was provided.

NEV
17-1
1-

NEV-17-1
Page 3

REFERENCES

Brochure, Lehman Caves National Monument, Nevada, 1962,3
Department of Interior, National Park Service.

Interview with Robert Jacobsen, Superintendent, Lehman Caves
National Monument.

Prepared by,

Melvin M. Rotsch

Melvin M. Rotsch, Professor
Texas A&M University

August 1965

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

Charles S. Pope, AIA
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office, Design and Construction
National Park Service

DATE: August 1965.